IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An imaging system comprising:

a radiation source configured to generate a beam;

a collimator configured to collimate the beam to generate a collimated beam; and

a detector configured to detect the collimated beam, wherein the collimator is separate from said detector and ~~is one of:~~

~~a first collimator comprising~~ comprises at least one radio opaque member having a curved contour proportional to a contour of the detector~~;~~

~~a second collimator with blades, wherein slopes of two oppositely facing surfaces of at least one of said blades are different from each other; and~~

~~a third collimator having at least two sets of plates, wherein said plates in a set pivot with respect to each other~~.

2. (original) An imaging system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said curved contour of said first collimator and said contour of said detector are concentric.

3. (previously presented) An imaging system in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising:

a linear drive mechanism configured to form an aperture of said first collimator, wherein the aperture has a size; and

a piezo-electric drive mechanism configured to change the size of the aperture of said first collimator, wherein said linear drive mechanism is separate from said piezo-electric drive mechanism.

4-9. (canceled)

10. (previously presented) An imaging system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said collimator is located between a subject and said radiation source.

11. (currently amended) A computed tomography imaging system comprising:

an x-ray source configured to generate a beam;

a collimator configured to collimate the x-ray beam to generate a collimated x-ray beam; and

a detector configured to detect the collimated x-ray beam, wherein the collimator is separate from said detector and ~~is one of:~~

~~a first collimator comprising~~ comprises at least one radio opaque member having a curved contour proportional to a contour of the detector~~;~~

~~a second collimator with blades, wherein slopes of two oppositely-facing surfaces of at least one of said blades are different from each other; and~~

~~a third collimator having at least two sets of plates, wherein said plates in a set pivot with respect to each other~~.

12. (original) A computed tomography imaging system in accordance with Claim 11 wherein said curved contour of said first collimator and said contour of said detector are concentric.

13. (previously presented) A computed tomography imaging system in accordance with Claim 11 further comprising:

a linear drive mechanism configured to form an aperture of said first collimator, wherein said aperture has a size; and

a piezo-electric drive mechanism configured to change the size of said aperture of said first collimator, wherein said linear drive mechanism is separate from said piezo-electric drive mechanism.

14-19. (canceled)

20. (currently amended) A method for reducing dosage of radiation incident on a subject, said method comprising:

transmitting a beam of radiation toward the subject;

collimating the beam of radiation before the beam reaches the subject; and

detecting, by a detector, the collimated beam of radiation, wherein the collimating is performed by a collimating device that is separate from the detector and ~~is one of:~~

~~a first collimator comprising~~ includes at least one radio opaque member having a curved contour proportional to a contour of a detector that detects the collimated beam~~;~~

~~a second collimator with blades, wherein slopes of two oppositely-facing surfaces of at least one of said blades are different from each other; and~~

~~a third collimator having at least two sets of plates, wherein said plates in a set pivot with respect to each other~~.

21. (previously presented) An imaging system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the at least one radio opaque member comprises at least two cams positionable relative to each other to form a plurality of differently sized apertures.

22. (new) An imaging system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the collimator is configured to move in a direction perpendicular to a plane formed by the beam of the radiation source.